

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 6-9, and 11-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 16, and 17 are currently amended. Claim 2 is canceled. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

This amendment does not add new matter to the application as filed. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 2, and claim 2 has been canceled. Claim 7 is amended to delete the recitation of a "cationic polymer having a low molecular weight." The amendments to claims 3, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, and 17 are editorial. Accordingly, no new matter is added.

Applicants submit that this amendment directly responds to the Examiner's comments in the outstanding Office Action and places the application into condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this amendment under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116 is fully warranted, and is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 7 is currently amended to address this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 13, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Qu (U.S. Patent Publ. No. 2003/0019627). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants note that the Office Action indicates that claim 3 is included within this rejection. Applicants understand this to be a typographical error, and that the "3" at page 2, last paragraph of the Office Action, should be "13." Applicants note that this rejection is maintained from the December 8, 2006 Office Action, where it is indicated that the rejection is of claims 1, 13, 17 and 18. See page 4.

Claim 1 is currently amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, indicated as allowable at page 3 of the Office Action. Dependent claims 13, 17, and 18 are thus also allowable as well. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

This amendment incorporates subject matter indicated as allowable into claim 1 and cancels claim 2. Claim 7 has also been amended to respond to the Examiner's rejection. Accordingly, applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark Konieczny Reg. No. 47,715 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

James M. Slattery

Registration No.: 28,380 #43,368

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant

for

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